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FM AIT TAIPEI
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8849
INFO RUCNASE/ASEAN MEMBER COLLECTIVE
RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 4787
RUEHUL/AMEMBASSY SEOUL 7643
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO 7501
RUEHCN/AMCONSUL CHENGDU 1082
RUEHGZ/AMCONSUL GUANGZHOU 9050
RUEHHK/AMCONSUL HONG KONG 5987
RUESLE/AMCONSUL SHANGHAI 8447
RUEHSH/AMCONSUL SHENYANG 5031
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHDC
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC
RHHMUNA/USPACOM HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L TAIPEI 000678

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E.O. 12958: DECL: 03/03/2016

TAGS: [PGOV](#) [TW](#)

SUBJECT: KMT AIR TRAVEL/TOURISM PROMOTION VISIT TO BEIJING
TOUCHES ON NUC ISSUE

Classified By: AIT Acting Director David J. Keegan, Reason(s): 1.4
(B/D).

¶1. (C) Summary: PRC Taiwan Affairs Office (TAO) Director Chen Yun-lin asked a visiting Kuomintang Party (KMT) delegation from Taiwan whether the KMT or the U.S. government could "restrain" President Chen Shui-bian from abolishing the National Unification Council and Guidelines (NUC/NUG). KMT representatives responded that there was little the KMT could do to stop Chen, who also seemed to be ignoring U.S. overtures. Chen then informed the KMT representatives that, based on the muted responses from KMT Chairman Ma Ying-jeou and the U.S. government, PRC President Hu Jintao wondered whether China should do something to dissuade Chen from crossing the line. End Summary.

¶2. (C) KMT Mainland Affairs Department Director Chang Jung-kung told AIT that while he was visiting Beijing February 21-23 as part of a KMT delegation to promote cross-Strait tourism and charter flights, he was approached the evening of February 21 by PRC TAO Director Chen Yun-lin, to discuss President Chen's January 29 proposal to abolish the NUC/NUG. Chen told Chang that he had been summoned earlier in the day by PRC President Hu Jintao to discuss the matter. According to Chang, Chen seemed "nervous," and wanted to know whether Chang believed the KMT or the U.S. would be able to "restrain" Chen from breaking his promise not to "abolish" the NUC.

¶3. (C) Chang responded to Chen that while the KMT could move to censure, recall, or even impeach President Chen, none of those options was likely to go beyond debate in the Legislative Yuan (LY), and would probably not scare President Chen away from moving forward on NUC/NUG. Chang said he also told Chen Yun-lin that President Chen seemed unwilling to heed U.S. recommendations to leave the NUC/NUG alone. During their meeting, Chen Yun-lin told Chang that, since the efforts of the U.S. and of KMT Chairman Ma Ying-jeou did not appear able to persuade President Chen to change course, President Hu wondered whether China should act to dissuade President Chen from scrapping the NUC entirely. Chang said the Beijing authorities did not see a need to resolve the Taiwan issue any time soon, but were worried that abolition of the NUC would encourage President Chen to push controversial constitutional reforms, aggravating hardliners

within the PRC.

¶4. (C) On the issue of cross-Straits charter flights and tourism, Chang told AIT that his delegation succeeded in convincing the PRC to discuss cross-Straits cargo and passenger charter flights in whatever order or combination proposed by the Taipei government. (Note: Taipei wants to discuss only charter cargo flights at this time. Beijing previously would not agree to bifurcate cargo and passenger talks. End note.) The KMT delegation also got Beijing to agree to future discussions on how Taiwan might be added to the list of overseas tourist destinations approved by the PRC government for its citizens.

KEEGAN